

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 163

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2015

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee favorably reports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 163 with committee amendments.

This constitutional amendment would dedicate all moneys from settlements and awards collected by the State in connection with legal claims based on environmental contamination. The amount dedicated may be used only to repair damage to, restore, or permanently protect the State's natural resources, and for any of the purposes enumerated in Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution. Those constitutionally enumerated purposes include providing funding for cleaning contaminated sites and underground storage tank sites, water quality programs, and preserving open space, farmland, and historic buildings or sites. In addition, no more than five percent of the moneys dedicated and appropriated annually pursuant to this constitutional amendment may be expended for administrative costs of the State or its departments, agencies, or authorities for the authorized purposes.

The committee amendments would delete the provision that authorized the use of the moneys for bond repayments and would allow the use of no more than five percent of the moneys dedicated and appropriated annually to be expended for administrative costs of the State or its departments, agencies, or authorities for the authorized environmental purposes.